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Senate

The Senate met at 10:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Merciful God, guide our lawmakers and empower them to meet today's challenges.

Lord, our world seems under attack, but we continue to place our trust in You. When we feel fear, remind us that all power belongs to You. We thank You that mere human beings cannot prevail against Your might and majesty.

Lord, keep a record of the tears of those who cry out to You from around the world. Rescue them from their anguish and keep them from defeat.

We pray in Your matchless Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE,

a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3076, which the clerk will now report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 273, H.R. 3076, a bill to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, with each new day of war in Ukraine, the brutality and sheer evil of Vladimir Putin's aggression against the Ukrainian people becomes more apparent. Failing at securing the country with quick strikes, Russian forces are evidently starting to engage in siege tactics. Over the past 12 hours, the city of

Kharkiv has endured especially heavy fire. Civilian casualties, tragically, are mounting.

Today, every single Member of the Senate must say once again, without equivocation, that the United States stands behind the Ukrainian people and behind all people in all nations who oppose the aggressions of despotism.

In the weeks to come, the Senate must work on a bipartisan basis—and in lockstep with the Biden administration—to pass a strong aid package providing both humanitarian aid and security assistance to Ukraine.

The strongest signal we can send to Vladimir Putin right now is that the United States stands together—together—with the people of Ukraine. Twenty years ago, when our own democracy was attacked right here on our own soil, Americans banded together—Democrat and Republican—to defend our Nation and our democracy.

Today, as democracy faces its greatest crisis in Europe since the end of the Cold War, we must likewise band together in support of our friends in Ukraine. So far, the President has done an excellent job uniting our Nation and our allies against Putin. This was not an easy job. The President had to show patience from some who had urged him to do things that would have torn the relationship apart—the European-American relationship.

Now, because of the President's strong leadership, the Russian President finds himself more isolated and a greater pariah than at any other moment in his time in power. When the full weight of international sanctions takes effect, the consequences will be catastrophic for Putin and the Russian economy.

On the flip side—on the flip side—divisions within the United States or amongst our allies will only strengthen Vladimir Putin and strengthen his resolve that he can win this war, and we must resist him and his deeply cynical efforts however necessary. We must be

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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